

CMS Manual System

Pub 100-01 Medicare General Information, Eligibility, and Entitlement

Transmittal 26

Department of Health & Human Services

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

Date: JULY 22, 2005

Change Request 3978

SUBJECT: Implement New Medicare Plan ID and Carrier Number for the Single Testing Contractor (STC)

I. SUMMARY OF CHANGES: This CR was upgraded to an emergency. New Contractor numbers must be implemented to build new STC test regions.

NEW/REVISED MATERIAL :

EFFECTIVE DATE : *October 01, 2005

IMPLEMENTATION DATE : October 03, 2005

Disclaimer for manual changes only: The revision date and transmittal number apply only to red italicized material. Any other material was previously published and remains unchanged. However, if this revision contains a table of contents, you will receive the new/revised information only, and not the entire table of contents.

II. CHANGES IN MANUAL INSTRUCTIONS: (N/A if manual is not updated)

R = REVISED, N = NEW, D = DELETED – *Only One Per Row.*

R/N/D	Chapter / Section / SubSection / Title
R	7/40.3/Shared System Testing Requirements for Maintainers, Beta Testers, and Contractors

III. FUNDING:

No additional funding will be provided by CMS; Contractor activities are to be carried out within their FY 2005 operating budgets.

IV. ATTACHMENTS:

Business Requirements

Manual Instruction

**Unless otherwise specified, the effective date is the date of service.*

Attachment - Business Requirements

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SUBJECT: Implement New Medicare Plan ID and Carrier Number for the Single Testing Contractor (STC)

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

A. Background:

On May 26, 2005 the new STC Contract was awarded. Beginning with the October 2005 release the STC shall shadow the current Beta testers in performing fee-for-service claims processing testing. The STC shall serve as the secondary tester while the current Beta testers serve as the primary tester. With the January 2006 release the STC will assume the role as the primary tester while the current Beta testers serve as the secondary tester.

The STC interface testing with HIGLAS shall be initiated for the January 2006 release with the STC serving as the secondary tester on Part A. Integrated HIGLAS testing is currently scheduled to be fully transitioned to the STC by the October 2006 release.

B. Policy:

This policy only affects the STC and any entity (e.g., HIGLAS) that performs integrated testing with the STC. To begin the STC transition, and to accommodate future integrated testing with HIGLAS, two new Medicare Contractor numbers have been reserved for STC testing:

- Plan ID Number or Fiscal Intermediary number “00388” shall be used for Medicare fee-for-service FI systems integrated testing.
- Medicare Contractor Number or Carrier number “00888” shall be used for Medicare fee-for-service Carrier systems integrated testing.

II. BUSINESS REQUIREMENTS

Requirement Number	Requirements	Responsibility (“X” indicates the columns that apply)								
		F I	R H I	C a r r i e r	D M E R C	Shared System Maintainers				Other HIGLAS
						F I S S	M C S	V M S	C W F	
3978.1	The STC shall use Fiscal Intermediary number “00388” for FI systems integrated testing.					X			X	X
3978.2	The STC shall use Carrier number “00888” for Carrier systems integrated testing.						X		X	X

III. PROVIDER EDUCATION

N/A

IV. SUPPORTING INFORMATION AND POSSIBLE DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

A. Other Instructions: N/A

X-Ref Requirement #	Instructions

B. Design Considerations: N/A

X-Ref Requirement #	Recommendation for Medicare System Requirements

C. Interfaces: N/A

D. Contractor Financial Reporting /Workload Impact: N/A

E. Dependencies: N/A

F. Testing Considerations: N/A

V. SCHEDULE, CONTACTS, AND FUNDING

<p>Effective Date: *October 1, 2005</p> <p>Implementation Date: October 3, 2005</p> <p>Pre-Implementation Contact(s): Scott Mueller, (410) 786-0480</p> <p>Post-Implementation Contact(s): Scott Mueller, (410) 786-0480</p>	<p>No additional funding will be provided by CMS; contractor activities are to be carried out within their FY 2005 operating budgets.</p>
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40.3 - Shared System Testing Requirements for Maintainers, Beta Testers, and Contractors

(Rev.26, Issued: 07-22-05, Effective: 10-01-05, Implementation: 10-03-05)

Medicare requires implementation of a limited number of shared systems that must be used by all FIs and carriers. This eliminates the need for each Medicare Contractor to repeat development of the basic system.

CMS requires that the shared system quarterly release be subjected to the complete testing life cycle prior to production release. The goal is to ensure that all changes function as intended and that the implementation of changes does not degrade or otherwise unintentionally affect existing system capability and function prior to implementation. This requires that the shared system be subjected to all levels and types of testing including unit testing, integration testing, systems testing, functional testing, interface testing, performance testing, regression testing, and operational testing. Definitions are provided in subsection 40.3.9.

The Shared System Maintainer and the Medicare Contractor each have specific roles in testing the shared system quarterly release. Additionally, CMS contracts with an FI, Carrier, DMERC, and CWF Host to act as a Beta tester for the FISS, MCS, VMS-B/DME, and CWF systems respectively.

Effective with the January 2006 Release the CMS Single Testing Contractor (STC) will assume primary responsibility for testing the Medicare Shared Systems and CWF. The STC will be fully responsible for meeting the requirements of the Beta tester as outlined in Chapter 7, Section 40.3, including all subsections. STC interface testing with HIGLAS will be initiated in January 2006 as a shadow test on Part A and be fully transitioned by October 2006. Two new Medicare Contractor numbers are established to accommodate STC testing, 00888 for Carrier systems testing and 00388 for Fiscal Intermediary systems testing.

This section identifies the testing responsibilities for each organization to ensure that each shared system quarterly release satisfies all CMS requirements. All organizations shall have processes in place to meet these requirements. Testing activities will generally begin 3 to 4 months in advance of the release date, particularly for shared system maintainers and the CWF maintainer.